

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS RANGOON 000764

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV
USPACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS - BURMESE GOVERNMENT CENSORS
U.S. PERIODICALS

1. (U) The Burmese government is now censoring or controlling distribution of some foreign periodicals that are normally sold with official authorization in Burma. This is an effort to remove international reports of the May 30 attack on the National League for Democracy (NLD) convoy in Depeyin and subsequent detainment of Aung San Suu Kyi and the leadership of the NLD.

2. (U) TIME and NEWSWEEK, which are distributed by a local bookstore, were censored by the Burmese Press Scrutiny Board to eliminate any such reports. We have attempted to locate and buy the June 16 and June 23 issues of TIME, with no success (Note: the June 16 issue of TIME featured a photo of some of the bloody clothing and weapons that Embassy officers recovered at the site of the May 30 attack. End Note.). The June 16 issue of NEWSWEEK is available - minus pages 15-18 containing the article "The Missing Lady", written by Joe Cochrane (although the magazine's Table of Contents lists the article beside a picture of Aung San Suu Kyi). Other popular foreign periodicals, such as the English language editions of the major Thai dailies, the "Bangkok Nation" and the "Bangkok Post", continue to be sold uncensored (although several days old) on the streets of Rangoon.

3. (U) These foreign publications, together with international broadcasters such as VOA, RFA and BBC, are a vital source of information for Burmese, who cannot read reliable reports in the vernacular press. The only reporting on the events of May 30 they have seen in the government-controlled press have been articles blaming any "unrest" on the actions of the NLD and repeating the government's dubious numbers of death and casualties.

4) (U) The Embassy American Center makes uncensored versions of major international periodicals such as TIME, NEWSWEEK, International Herald Tribune, and many others, available to the public six days a week. Burmese journalists and others continue to keep abreast of events inside their country by reading these foreign media at the American Center. In recent weeks, the American Center Library has been even more crowded than usual, particularly with students whose universities were shut following the May 30 ambush.
Martinez